

A Model Church

NOTE: The Hermeneutic principle is always to study from the context to the text to avoid pretext.

INTRODUCTION:

- First Thessalonians is a letter written by Paul in 51 AD from Corinth to the church founded on second missionary evangelism trip of Paul, Silas and Timothy (Acts 15:35-18:22/ 17:1-10).
- First and Second Thessalonians are good guide books for missionary work. Our studies from First Thessalonians will prepare us for our Foreign Missions program during February.
- Paul's second missionary evangelism trip was part of the Macedonia call to evangelize Europe (Acts 16:6-10). DSBC is also a missionary church founded in 1974.
- As a letter, the Book of Thessalonians was written in sentences and paragraphs, not in chapters and verses. This is important to our study taken from chapter one; since it consists of four sentences in verses:
 - 1 Thess.1:1 Salutation from the missionary team
 - 1 Thess.1:2-5 "We section" Paul, Silas, and Timothy
 - 1 Thess.1:6-7 "You section" Church of Thessalonians
 - 1 Thess.1:8-10 "They section" Believers in Macedonia-Achaia (1:7)

We combined the last two sentences for a four point study of A Model Church (1 Thess.1:6-10).
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1. We will begin by examining our lesson text by the following four homiletic points

- Scriptures (1 Thess.1:6-7)
 - The Gospel: (Rom.1:16) became (ginimai / a.p.ind 2pl) (1 Thess.1:5)
 - Imitators (1 Thess.1:6)
 - A model (tupos) (1 Thess.1:7)
- Sounded forth (1 Thess.1:8)
 - The sound of thunder went forth from them (p.p.ind)
 - (Acts 17:6)
- Salvation (1 Thess.1:9)
 - Reception - turned to God - changed lives
- Second Coming (1 Thess.1:10)
 - The Second Coming - "waiting" - in expectation – while sharing the gospel

2. A Model Church takes responsibility for custodianship of evangelism (Acts 1:8; Matt.28:18-20).

Custodianship of evangelism is open doors (Col.4:3; Acts 14:27) and clear gospel (1 Cor.15:1-4) and grace salvation (Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-10; Acts 16:30-33) and discipleship training (Matt.28:18-20).

Custodianship of evangelism continues its discipleship training of newborn babies by providing the “milk” doctrines of salvation. (1 Pet.2:2) such as:

- The Essence of God,
- Godhead or trinity,
- So Great a Salvation (four studies pamphlet),
- Three categories of sin: Imputed sin (AOS); Inherent sin (OSN); Individual sin and Personal sin
- Spirituality vs. Carnality
- The Faith Cycle (Eph.3:6-10).

(1 Pet.2:2) “Like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, **that by it you may grow in respect to salvation.**” (Heb.5:12)

3. A Model Church takes responsibility also for custodianship of the Word of God for the spiritual growth of the local church body (2 Pet.3:16-18; Eph.4:11-16).

- It involves teaching milk and meat doctrines for spiritual growth maturity (Heb.5:11-14).
- It involves teaching spiritual gifted ministries within the church body (1 Cor.12; Rom12; Eph.4).
- It involves training spiritually gifted communicators for ministry (seminary/ Eph.4:11).
- It involves evangelizing the community, state, region, national, and international (Acts 1:8).

4. Antioch, the capital of the Roman province of Syria, was A Model Church that took seriously the custodianship of evangelism and word of God.

It became a model to others Gentile churches like Thessalonians and DSBC.

The community of Antioch was evangelized by believers from Cyrus and Cyrene after Pentecost (Acts 1:8; 8:1; 11:19-26). Barnabas was sent by church of Jerusalem for discipleship training of converts at Antioch (Acts 11:22-24).

Barnabas recruited Paul for custodianship of Word of God and to train ministers and to develop the **Antioch believers** into a local Gentile church body (Acts 11:25-26; 13:1-3). This is the reason DSBC trains ministers in School of Biblical Theology.

The **Antioch church** sent Paul and Barnabas on their **first** missionary evangelism trip (Acts 13-14). They sent Paul and Silas as well as Barnabas and John Mark on a **second** missionary evangelism trip. They also sent the Pauline team on the **third** missionary evangelism trip (Acts 18:22-19:41).

Antioch church was the first church labeled, Christian Church - “The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.” (Act 11:26b) (Gentile church)

Antioch church became the MODEL for other Christian churches to follow such as Thessalonians and DSBC.